

REASONS

To Augment the Number of

Hackney Coaches,

Within the

BILLS OF MORTALITY,

FROM

Four Hundred to Six or Eight Hundred:

Most humbly tendered to

The CONSIDERATION of

BOTH

Houses of Parliament.

THAT if Four Hundred *Hackney Coaches* were a fit Number, when the Statute was made, then Six Hundred at least will be now required. For the vast increase of Building since 1662, is obvious to every Eye, and that the Inhabitants are proportionably increased, appears by the *Bills of Mortality*, being now a Third more than in 1662.

2. THAT it is most certain that Eight Hundred under due Regulation, as to Method, Order, and Station, which never yet was done, would less incommode the *Town*, than Four Hundred left to themselves.

3. THAT whereas it is pretended there are but One hundred and thirty besides the Four Hundred that now drive, and that the Streets are so crouded, that *the Nobility and Gentry* can scarce pass. The truth is, that there are within the *Bills of Mortality* above

a Thousand *Hackney Coaches* in constant Employ, as is ready to be made appear.

4. THAT from that Extravagant Number, under no Rules of Order, the *Ways* are indeed pester'd, and the Freedom of Passage and Intercourse much obstructed.

5. THAT these very Persons, who fear to be ruin'd if Six or Eight Hundred be allowed, do now keep on Foot the said exorbitant Number of *Hackney Coaches*, many of them having Three, Four, Five, or Six *Coaches* a-piece.

6. THAT the said Persons since the *Act* expir'd, have by Combination, and by Bribes, and Corruption in the last Reign; under Pretence of those Licences, that indeed expir'd with the *Act*, kept up a sort of *Monopoly* of *Hackney Coaches*, excluding all but themselves (tho all when the *Act* expir'd, had equal Right) forcing them to desist by Unjust and Vexatious Suits; which the Poverty of those they oppress'd could not oppose.

7. THAT it is most plain, that the formerly Licensed Four Hundred have regard not to the Publick Convenience, but their Private Gain; by this Endeavour of theirs to continue a *Monopoly* to themselves only, though too few to serve; and exclude a moderate Number of others, when all might live by it, and the Publick be better served.

8. THAT many, if not most of the formerly Licensed Four Hundred are not Driving *Coach-Men*, but such as Lett out their Licences at great Extortion to *Poor Men*, themselves not keeping either *Coach* or *Horse*.

9. THAT there are, beside the formerly licensed, Three or Four Hundred Ancient Driving *Hackney Coach-men* about the *Town*, Men fitly qualified for that Employment, as having used it, some Forty, some Fifty Years, most of them Twenty and Thirty Years, and scarce fit for other Business; who with their Families may probably fall to the Parish, if not let in by an *Act*, enlarging the Number of *Hackney Coaches*:



10. THAT

10. THAT since Rules and Orders prescribed to *Coaches*, may easily prevent Quarrels and Stops, and since the Inlargment of the *Town*, and increase of the *Inhabitants*, require for Publick Convenience, a greater Number of such *Coaches*; since there are Two Hundred Persons fitly qualified, whom it is great Charity to admit; and since there is nothing opposed to all these just Motives and Inducements for an Augmentation of the Number of *Hackney Coaches* by *Act of Parliament*, except only a few specious Pretences, colouring (in Prejudice of the Publick Benefit) the Private Interest of the formerly Licensed Four Hundred, who it is well known were not able to supply those vast multitudes of People inhabiting in and about the Town after the Restraint made in the late Reign by the *Pepish Commission*, as may appear by the many Complaints then made. It is therefore most humbly hoped and prayed, That the *Parliament* will increase the Number of *Hackney Coaches*, to Six or Eight Hundred.

All which is most humbly submitted to the Wisdom and Justice of the PARLIAMENT.